



Re-Drafted Claims regarding a Final Claims rejection USPTO Office Action mailed by the USPTO on Jan. 29, 2007 regarding Patent Application 10/803,626; Part of a April 2007 Response to the USPTO April 2007

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Claims 1 – 12 (Cancelled)

13. (New) A modular electronic device, comprising:

a first module including a first communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals without direct electrical contact;

a second module including a second communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals with the first module without direct electrical contact;

a third module including a third communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals with other modules without direct electrical contact;

an alignment mechanism constructed to align the modules relative to one another; and

an attachment mechanism constructed to retain the modules together without direct electrical contact communication of inter-module input/output signals.

14. (New) A device as in claim 13 wherein the attachment mechanism is constructed to rigidly retain the modules together.

15. (New) A device as in claim 13 wherein the alignment mechanism is constructed to align and rigidly hold the modules together.

16. (New) A device as in claim 13 wherein each of the modules is encapsulated and sealed from the environment.
17. (New) A device as in claim 13 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a magnet coupled to each of the first module and the second module.
18. (New) A device as in claim 17 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a metallic protrusion on the first module and an aperture comprising magnets in the second module.
19. (New) A device as in claim 13, further comprising one or more non-contact, without direct electrical contact control mechanisms.
20. (New) A device as in claim 13, further comprising one or more non-contact inter-module power transfer mechanisms.
21. (New) A device as in claim 20, further comprising one or more alignment mechanisms that improve the efficiency of the non-contact power transfer mechanisms.
22. (New) A device as in claim 13, further comprising one or more alignment mechanisms that improve the efficiency of the inter-module communication mechanisms configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals with one or more other modules without direct electrical contact;

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- 23. (New) A device as in claim 13 where modules contain non-contact communication I/O signals when modules are connected yet broadcast non-contact communication I/O signals when separate.
- 24. (New) A device as in claim 16 where the modules are liquid filled for cooling.
- 25. (New) A device as in claim 16 where the modules are liquid filled for withstanding a high pressure environment.
- 26. (New) A device as in claim 13 where the modules further comprising a plurality of communication mechanisms configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals without direct electrical contact.
- 27. (New) A device as in claim 13 further comprising a plurality of additional modules, each including one or more communication mechanisms configured to facilitate transmission and reception of inter-module input/output signals without direct electrical contact.